

Message Text

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43

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

OIC-02 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /159 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8885

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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: COMMITTEE II - MEETING OF INFORMAL NEGOTIATING

GROUP III - AUGUST 25

1. SMALL CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF COMMITTEE II INFORMAL
NEGOTIATING GROUP (NG) III ON THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN MET
AUGUST 25 AM TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF REVENUE SHARING (ART. 70).

2. MEXICO OPENED DEBATE WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT GROUP
CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC REVENUE SHARING FORMULA TO BE INSERTED
IN ARTICLE 70. UK SUPPORTED US FORMULA TABLED AT LAST SESSION
OF CONFERENCE (1 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF PRODUCTION IN THE
5TH YEAR INCREASING BY 1 PERCENT PER YEAR TO 5 PERCENT IN THE
10TH YEAR AND REMAINING CONSTANT THEREAFTER).

UK REPRESENTATIVE DESCRIBED THESE FIGURES AS REALISTIC,
CITING HIGH COST OF EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF
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HYDROCARBONS IN OUTER CONTINENTAL MARGIN AREAS AS

JUSTIFICATION. INDIA AND CANADA SUPPORTED UK APPROACH, WITH FORMER INDICATING THAT US FIGURES WERE MAXIMUM THAT COULD BE ACCEPTED. AUSTRIA AND NIGERIA INDICATED THEY ALSO ACCEPTED VALUE OF PRODUCTION AS BASIS FOR DETERMINING REVENUE SHARING OBLIGATION, WITH AUSTRIA PROPOSING THAT FINAL PERCENTAGE BE UPPED FROM 5 TO 7 PERCENT (A SIGNIFICANT INTERVENTION COMING FROM LANDLOCKED STATE). SINGAPORE, WHILE ARGUING FOR REVENUE SHARING WITHIN 200 MILES AS WELL AS BEYOND, PROPOSED EVEN SPLIT OF NET PROFITS FROM HYDROCARBON EXPLOITATION BEYOND 200 MILES BETWEEN COASTAL STATE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

3. SINGAPORE PROPOSAL FOR REVENUE SHARING WITHIN 200 MILES DREW SHARP REPLY FROM A NUMBER OF BROAD-MARGIN STATES. ARGENTINA INDICATED SUPPORT FOR AN AMENDMENT PROPOSED LAST SESSION BY SENEGAL WHICH WOULD EXEMPT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM REVENUE SHARING OBLIGATION. BRAZIL, MAURITIUS, INDONESIA, VENEZUELA AND MAURITANIA SUPPORTED ARGENTINA. INDIA INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF REDUCED RATE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SINGAPORE AND UK OPPOSED SUCH A DOUBLE STANDARD FOR OBLIGATION, POINTING OUT THAT DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE BUILT INTO CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING RATHER THAN FOR GIVING.

4. THERE WAS LIMITED DISCUSSION OF MECHANISM TO BE EMPLOYED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE SHARING FUNDS, WITH CANADA OUTLINING 3 POSSIBILITIES: GIVING FUNDS TO SEABED AUTHORITY; CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS OR CREATION OF NEW BODY FOR DISPERSEMENT; UK INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS REGIONAL BANKS, AN IDEA ECHOED BY JAPAN. NIGERIA INDICATED INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNDP AS RECIPIENT. SEVERAL OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARGUED IN FAVOR OF SUCH FUNDS BEING CONTRIBUTED TO SEABED AUTHORITY.

5. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF EXTENT OF COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER CONTINENTAL MARGIN, THOUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLOMBIA REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR 200 MILE OR 500 METER DEPTH LIMIT AND EXPLICITLY OPPOSED IRISH FORMULA. BENNETT

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